

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 026801
ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 /016 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/MEX:D.E.SIMCOX:MRG
APPROVED BY ARA/MEX:D.E.SIMCOX
ARA:R.ARELLANO
ARA/CEN:L.PFEIFLE
ARA/PPC:K.MARSHALL

-----119776 011939Z /46

O 011918Z PEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 026801

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PEPR, MASS, MX, GT

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON F-5 SALES TO MEXICO AND
GUATEMALA

REF: STATE 25499

THE FOLLOWING IS THE PORTION OF THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE
NOON PRESS BRIEFING JANUARY 31 RELATING TO F-5 SALES FOR
GUATEMALA AND MEXICO:

BEGIN TEXT:

Q. HODDING, CAN YOU CONFIRM OR COMMENT ON THE STORY IN
THE POST ABOUT MEXICO AND GUATEMALA SEEKING AIRCRAFT?

A. I CAN CONFIRM THAT THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT HAS MADE
A FORMAL REQUEST, WHICH OF COURSE IS IN THE MIDDLE OF
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THE USUAL PROCESS. I WOULD NOT EXPECT ANY QUICK ANNOUNCE-
MENT ON THAT.

Q. ARE THE FIGURES CORRECT IN THE STORY ABOUT THE
NUMBER OF PLANES THAT CROSSED (SIC) AND EVERYTHING?

A. I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO GIVE THE NUMBERS. I CAN

ONLY CONFIRM THAT THEY HAVE SUBMITTED A FORMAL REQUEST.

INSOFAR AS THE GUATEMALANS ARE CONCERNED, WE DO NOT
HAVE A FORMAL REQUEST FROM THEM FOR AIRPLANES.

Q. HOW ABOUT INFORMAL?

A. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THERE MAY HAVE BEEN AN
INFORMAL DISCUSSION OF THE MATTER.

Q. ARE WE TALKING ABOUT F-5E'S IN BOTH CASES?

A. THAT IS MY UNDERSTANDING.

Q. HODDING, ARE THESE THE ONLY TWO COUNTRIES THAT HAVE
REQUESTED THESE PLANES?

A. NO. EGYPT HAS REQUESTED THE PLANES.

Q. NO. IN LATIN AMERICA.

A. YOU MEAN CURRENTLY?

Q. YES.

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A. THOSE ARE THE ONLY ONES I HAVE.

ON THE QUESTION OF THAT, AS YOU KNOW, CHILE AND BRAZIL
HAVE F-5. VENEZUELA HAS THE CANADIAN VERSION CALLED
THE CF-5.

BUT INSOFAR AS OTHER REQUESTS ARE CONCERNED, I HAVE NONE.

Q. CAN YOU DISTINGUISH THE MODELS INVOLVED HERE? DO
CHILE AND BRAZIL HAVE EARLIER MODELS THAN THESE REQUESTS
FOR F-5E'S? IS THAT IT?

A. NO. I REALLY CAN'T GO BEYOND CONFIRMING THE FACT
OF THE FORMAL REQUEST AND THE INFORMAL DISCUSSION.

Q. YOU ARE NOT CONFIRMING THERE IS THE E MODEL THEN
THAT MEXICO AND GUATEMALA WANT?

A. NO. I AM NOT CONFIRMING THAT. I AM CONFIRMING THE
GENERAL REQUEST.

I WOULD IMAGINE ON THE FORMAL PROCESS AS IT PROCEEDS
THAT THERE MAY BE MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AS THE

DISCUSSIONS GO ON. BUT I AM NOT ABLE TO GO BEYOND THAT
RIGHT NOW.

Q. CAN YOU SAY HOW THE MEXICAN REQUEST FOR THIS PLANE
FITS INTO THE OVERALL ADMINISTRATION POLICY ON DISARMA-
MENT IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE?

A. ONE OF THE REASONS OBVIOUSLY FOR TAKING IT UNDER
STUDY IS TO TAKE THAT INTO ACCOUNT, AMONG A NUMBER OF
OTHER CONSIDERATIONS. I AM NOT PREPARED AT THIS STAGE,
WHICH IS VERY EARLY, TO ADDRESS THAT QUESTION.

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Q. I'D LIKE TO GO BACK TO THE MEXICAN REQUEST FOR
PLANES, NOT VERY LONG AGO THE UNITED STATES REFUSED
ISRAEL'S REQUEST TO SELL KFIR PLANES TO ECUADOR. WOULD
THE SAME PRINCIPLE THAT YOU APPLIED THEN APPLY IN YOUR
CONSIDERATIONS OF THE MEXICAN AND GUATEMALA REQUESTS,
AND HAS ANYTHING CHANGED SINCE THEN?

S. ALL THE CONSIDERATIONS THAT NORMALLY COME INTO
PLAY ON THE QUESTION OF ARMS SALES IN LATIN AMERICA
WOULD COME INTO PLAY HERE. IF YOU RECALL, THE DECISION
ON THOSE WAS TAKEN AFTER A GREAT DEAL OF CONSIDERATION.
I SIMPLY SAY TO YOU AGAIN, I WOULD NOT EXPECT A QUICK
ANSWER ON THIS PARTICULAR FORMAL REQUEST. THAT DOES NOT
HINT AT ANYTHING. I'M SIMPLY SAYING THAT THE SAME
CONSIDERATIONS WILL COME INTO PLAY.

Q. BUT HAS ANYTHING CHANGED SINCE THEN IN ANY WAY THAT
WOULD --

A. ONE OF THE REASONS, OBVIOUSLY, FOR STUDYING EACH
REQUEST IS TO SEE WHETHER OR NOT THE FACTORS HAVE
CHANGED OVER A PERIOD OF TIME THAT MAY AFFECT POLICY
DECISIONS, AND I, UNFORTUNATELY, AM NOT THE RESIDENT
EXPERT ON LATIN AMERICAN QUESTIONS.

VANCE

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED
@@@OASYS@@@<CONCATENATED>

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: D.E.SIMCOX:MRG
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From: STATE
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Message ID: 783c9cce-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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TAGS: MASS, PEPR, SOPN, GT, MX, US, PEPR, SOPN
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